

[23 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) Government has filed an appeal in the High Court of Delhi against the order of the CAT. The matter is currently subjudice.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The Officer's continuance is as per the orders of CAT itself.

**Excise duty on marble**

3133. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of the total production of marble in the country, Rajasthan is contributing more than 90%;

(b) whether Government are aware that the imposition of excise duty on processed marble will have far reaching effect, particularly when import of marble from overseas countries has been allowed; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reduce the excise duty on processed marble to Rs. 10/- per square meter, as prevailing before March, 1994, instead of Rs. 40/- per sq. meter which was increased in 1998-99, for survival of indigenous marble industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) Marble is a minor mineral as defined under Section 3(e) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and as such information/data of production of marble is not maintained by the Central Government. However, as per information furnished by State Government of Rajasthan, it is contributing more than 90% of country's total marble production. The excise duty rates for all items including those for marble are laid down by the Government as part of the annual Budgetary exercise, taking into consideration the overall policy thrust of the Budget.